

CLAIMS LISTING:

Claims 1-33 are cancelled.

34. (New) An extension device configured to form an articulated, horizontally rotatable interconnection between a forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and a rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section, said device comprising:

an elongate rigid frame having a horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation and extending between a front end connector that matingly engages with the prime mover wheeled vehicle section and a back end connector that matingly engages with the load-carrying wheeled vehicle section and wherein one of said connectors is a pivot connector that enables a rotatable connection about said horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of said frame and the other of said connectors is a fixed connector that establishes a fixed connection relative to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of said frame.

35. (New) The device as recited in claim 34, wherein at least one of said front end and said back end connectors is a sleeve configured to receive an insert member of a respectively connected one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section.

36. (New) The device as recited in claim 35, wherein said sleeve is cylindrically shaped.

37. (New) The device as recited in claim 36, wherein said pivot connector comprises said cylindrically shaped sleeve.

38. (New) The device as recited in claim 36, wherein said fixed connector comprises said cylindrically shaped sleeve.

39. (New) The device as recited in claim 38, wherein said fixed connector further comprises a fastener radially offset from said cylindrically shaped sleeve, said fastener being configured for fixed interconnection with one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section.

40. (New) The device as recited in claim 34, wherein said elongate rigid frame further comprises at least one stiffening girder arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of the frame.

41. (New) The device as recited in claim 40, wherein said at least one stiffening girder comprises a pair of stiffening girders, each arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of the frame.

42. (New) The device as recited in claim 34, wherein said elongate rigid frame further comprises a cardan shaft passageway therethrough and which is arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of the frame.

43. (New) The device as recited in claim 42, wherein said cardan shaft passageway further comprises a brake arrangement comprising one of a brake disk and a caliper assembly for braking an installed cardan shaft.

44. (New) The device as recited in claim 34, wherein said elongate rigid frame further comprises a plurality of rigid side walls forming a surrounding housing having an access aperture therethrough.

45. An articulated vehicle comprising:

a forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section articulatedly interconnected with a rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section;

an extension device forming an articulated, horizontally rotatable interconnection between said forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and said rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section; and

said extension device comprising an elongate rigid frame having a horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation and extending between a front end connector matingly engaged with the prime mover wheeled vehicle section and a back end connector matingly engaged with the load-carrying wheeled vehicle section and wherein one of said connectors is a pivot connector establishing a rotatable connection about said horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of said frame and the other of said connectors is a fixed connector establishing a fixed connection relative to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of said frame.

46. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 45, wherein at least one of said front end and said back end connectors is a sleeve insertibly receiving an insert member of a respectively connected one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section.

47. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 46, wherein said sleeve is cylindrically shaped.

48. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 47, wherein said pivot connector comprises said cylindrically shaped sleeve.

49. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 47, wherein said fixed connector comprises said cylindrically shaped sleeve.

50. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 49, wherein said fixed connector further comprises a fastener radially offset from said cylindrically shaped sleeve, said fastener being fixedly interconnected with one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section.

51. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 45, wherein said elongate rigid frame further comprises at least one stiffening girder arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of the frame.

52. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 51, wherein said at least one stiffening girder comprises a pair of stiffening girders, each arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of the frame.

53. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 45, wherein said elongate rigid frame further comprises a cardan shaft passageway therethrough and which is arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of the frame.

54. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 53, wherein said cardan shaft passageway further comprises a brake arrangement comprising one of a brake disk and a caliper assembly for braking an installed cardan shaft.

55. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 45, wherein said elongate rigid frame further comprises a plurality of rigid side walls forming a surrounding housing having an access aperture therethrough.

56. (New) An articulated dumper comprising:

a forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section articulatedly interconnected with a rear, wheeled, dumper section;

an extension device forming an articulated, horizontally rotatable interconnection between said forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and said rear, wheeled, dumper section; and

said extension device comprising an elongate rigid frame having a horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation and extending between a front end connector matingly engaged with the prime mover wheeled vehicle section and a back end connector matingly engaged with the load-carrying wheeled vehicle section and wherein one of said connectors is a pivot connector establishing a rotatable connection about said horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of said frame and the other of said connectors is a fixed connector establishing a fixed connection relative to the horizontal longitudinal axis of rotation of said frame.

57. (New) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 56, wherein at least one of said front end and said back end connectors is a sleeve insertibly receiving an insert member of a respectively connected one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, wheeled, dumper section.